

## **Site Search Process and Selection**

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the applicant to submit a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, the description of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Facility are provided below.

As an FCC licensed wireless carrier, T-Mobile decides to seek out a site in an area based upon the needs of its wireless infrastructure and extensive research of the subject area. T-Mobile chooses a target area central to the area in which it has identified coverage and/or capacity needs. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, likely address the identified problem (“search ring”). T-Mobile’s goal is to locate sites that will remedy coverage or capacity issues, while resulting in the least environmental impact. In this case, T-Mobile has searched for a site in this area and has identified the property known as 15 Orchard Park Road (the “Property”) as the best possible location for the proposed wireless facility (the “Facility”).

T-Mobile is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and it does not pursue development of a new facility where an acceptable existing structure can be found. In general, T-Mobile’s site acquisition personnel first study the area in and near the search ring to determine whether any suitable structure exists. If T-Mobile cannot find a structure with appropriate height and structural capabilities, it turns to industrial/commercial areas or individual parcels that have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics. The list of potential locations is limited by the willingness of property owners to make their property available. Radio frequency engineers study potentially suitable and available locations to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. Analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits may further narrow the alternatives. The weight given relevant factors varies for each search, depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

In the area of Madison, which is the subject of this site search, there are no existing towers, transmission line structures or other suitable structures. Moreover, any existing towers are too far from the target area to provide coverage specifically to the target area. The nearest towers and suitable structures are already in use by T-Mobile. Finally, the Property abuts the Amtrak rail line, which is a component of the coverage goal. See also the Narrative at pp. 7-10.

The locations considered and the reasons locations other than the Property were not selected are outlined below:

1. USI Company, 98 Fort Path Road. This site is approximately .5 miles to the east of the target area. The site hosts a three story commercial office building, which abuts the Amtrak rail line. The ground elevation is approximately 12 feet lower than the proposed site at the Property. T-Mobile radio frequency engineers reviewed this property and determined that the rooftop is too low to afford proper coverage.

2. 170 Fort Path Road. This site is approximately .25 miles to the east of the target area. There is a 20 foot commercial building on the site. T-Mobile radio frequency engineers reviewed site and determined that the rooftop was too low to afford adequate coverage. This site is also owned by 15 Orchard Park RD LLC. The owner, however, does not want a tower on this parcel.

3. 150 Mungertown Road. This site also hosts a 20 foot commercial building. T-Mobile radio frequency engineers reviewed this site and determined that the rooftop was too low to afford adequate coverage. This site does not have adequate screening from existing trees. This site is also owned by 15 Orchard Park RD LLC. The owner, however, does not want a tower on this parcel.

At the suggestion of the Madison Planning and Zoning Commission, the following three properties were evaluated, and rejected:

4. Property owned by the Sunshine House on Fort Path Road. T-Mobile engaged in discussions with Amy Kuhner, the Executive Director of the Sunshine House, and provided requested information. Ms. Kuhner reported back that she circulated the information to the Sunshine House Board and it decided not to pursue a lease with T-Mobile for a tower on its property.

5. Town owned property on Nathan's Lane. T-Mobile's RF engineer determined that this candidate is located too far to the west of the coverage objective for the proposed Facility. The coverage from this candidate provides approximately 50 percent redundant coverage with T-Mobile's on air site CT11028A, located at 119 Tanner Marsh Road in Guilford. As such, even with a site at Nathan's Lane, the proposed Facility would still be needed to satisfy T-Mobile's coverage objectives in this area. Accordingly, this suggested site is untenable.

6. Bus Fueling Yard (Off Fort Path Road). This location is adjacent to T-Mobile's on air site CT11167A, a monopole located at 8 Old Route 79 in Madison. T-Mobile is located at 120 feet on this 148 foot tower. The majority of coverage potential from this candidate is redundant coverage with T-Mobile's

existing on air coverage footprint and would not be considered an appropriate candidate for the ring at issue with the proposed facility

Consequently, T-Mobile has determined that the Property, owned by 15 Orchard Park RD LLC, is superior to other properties in the area. The Property is zoned as light industrial (LI) and is 3.51 acres. Access to the Property is across an existing paved parking lot and driveway. It is not necessary to remove any trees for the proposed Facility. The Property is set back approximately 1,500 feet from Mungertown Road with excellent screening from mature trees. The Property is currently used as a storage facility and garage for truck trailers. It hosts multiple storage facilities and office buildings, the latter of which are approximately twenty feet tall.

The proposed Facility would enhance wireless service availability to existing and future T-Mobile wireless device users. Enhanced coverage provided by the Facility will allow T-Mobile subscribers to use voice and data services reliably as well as to connect to Emergency 911 services. The intended coverage area of the Facility includes Route 1, Neck Road, Mungertown Road and Interstate 95 in Madison as well as the Amtrak rail line that passes through this area. Additionally, the Facility would provide capacity relief for the current sites that presently cover this area from outer lying areas.